

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-03

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:PKBULLEN:GCB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227575

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT BEIRUT 11902 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ATHENS

LONDON ROME STUTTGART USCINCEUR SEP 24.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 11902

LIMDIS

DEPT FOR WLG

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGSJC AEMR, AFSP

SUBJECT: BEIRUT STANDFAST WARNING DECLARATION

1. ALTHOUGH SECURITY SITUATION SHOWS SOME SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT
IN QUOTE TRADITIONAL UNQUOTE BATTLE AREAS, THIS IS ATTRIBUTED
IN LARGE MEASURE TO SHORTAGE OF AMMUNITION. IN ANY EVENT, LAST
NIGHT SAW NEW OMINOUS DEVELOPMENT WITH STREET FIGHTING AS WELL
AS BOMBINGS IN RAS BEIRUT AND RAOUCHE AREAS WHERE VAST MAJORITY
OF FOREIGN COMMUNITY RESIDES, INCLUDING OFFICAL AMERICANS.
ONE APARTMENT OCCUPIED BY DIA ENLISTED MAN WAS STRAFED BY MACHINE
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GUNS FIRE AND MANY OTHERS SPENT SLEEPLESS NIGHT HUDDLED IN

INNER HALLWAYS. NO OFFICIAL AMERICAN HAS YET BEEN INJURED,
BUT DANGER IS DEFINITELY INCREASING.

2. PRIOR TO ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS, EMBASSY HAD ALREADY TAKEN
MOST STEPS ENVISIONED FOR STANDFAST WARNING PHASE. WE ARE NOT
CURRENTLY CONTEMPLATING AN EVACUTION BUT CONSIDER SITUATION
DOES WARRANT TAKING NUMBER CONTINGENCY MEASURES. IN THIS CONTEXT,
REQUEST DEPARTMENT TAKE FOLLOWING ACTION TO PERMIT US MOVE
QUICKLY IF NEED ARISES:

A. START DISCREET CONTINGENCY NEGOTIATIONS WITH PAN AMERICAN
AND OR OTHER AIRLINES FOR CHARTERING OF SPECIAL PERSONNEL,
AS WELL AS PRIVATE CITIZENS, FROM BEIRUT TO SAFEHAVEN. AIRLINES
SHOULD NOT RPT NOT ALERT LOCAL PAN AMERICAN OR OTHER AMERICAN
AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES IN BEIRUT AT THIS JUNCTURE, LEST IT
SPREAD ALARM.

B. SIMILAR ACTION IS REQUESTED WITH REGARD TO CHARTERING OF
SHIPS FOR USE SHOULD PASSAGE TO AIRPORT BE BLOCKED BY FIGHTING
WHICH IS LIKELY POSSIBILITY. AGAIN, DISCREET NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD
BE CONDUCTED WITH AMERICAN EXPORT LINES REPRESENTATIVE AND
OTHER COMPANIES.

C. DESIGNATE NOW SAFEHAVEN POST OR POSTS FOR USE BY BEIRUT AS
DEPARTMENT AWARE, DURING LAST EMERGENCY ROME WAS SO DESIGNATED
AND THIS WOULD BE THE EMBASSY'S CHOICE AGAIN.

D. PROVIDE BEIRUT WITH NECESSARY FISCAL DATA FOR EMERGENCY
LOANS, TRANSPORTATION, CHARTERING OF AIRCRAFT, ETC. THIS WOULD
BE FOR BOTH STATE AND USIA.

E. AUTHORIZE SCOLA PAYMENTS AS IT BECOMING EVIDENT THAT CERTAIN
FAMILIES WILL HAVE TO BE RELOCATED FROM HIGH RISK AREAS TO
SAFER HOTELS. WE CANNOT PREDICT NUMBER INVOLVED AS YET BUT
WILL KEEP COSTS TO A MINIMUM.

F. UNTIL SITUATION CLARIFIES, DEPARTMENT SHOULD STOP ALL DEPENDENTS
AND NEWLY ASSIGNED PERSONNEL FROM COMING TO BEIRUT UNLESS EMBASSY
SPECIFICALLY REQUEST EXCEPTION. NO ACTION IS CONSIDERED
NECESSARY TO STOP SHIPMENTS OF HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OR OFFICE
SUPPLIES AS YET. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE IF AND WHEN IT CONSIDERS
SUCH ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER POSTS NECESSARY.

G. AT PRESENT WE WISH AUTHORIZE DEPENDENTS OF OFFICIAL PERSONNEL
WHO WISH TO LEAVE TO PROCEED TO SAFEHAVEN EFFECTIVE TOMORROW,
SEPTEMBER 25, WE THEREFORE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE
EVACUATION ORDERS FOR SUCH VOLUNTARY EVACUEES FOR TRAVEL TO
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DESIGNATED SAFEHAVEN AND PER DIEM WHILE THERE.

3. EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS RESPONSE THIS TELEGRAM INCLUDING
FISCAL DATA AND AUTHORITY TO EVACUATE ON SELECTIVE BASIS
BY SEPT 25. NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS ARE ANXIOUS TO LEAVE AND WILL
DO SO ON THEIR OWN IF PROMPT ACTION IS NOT FORTHCOMING TO
AUTHORIZED THEIR OFFICIAL TRAVEL.

4. BRITISH AMBASSADOR WAS ADVISED OF ACTION OUTLINED ABOVE AND
HE STATED HE HAD ALREADY DICTATED SIMILAR TELEGRAM TO LONDON.
GODLEY UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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NNN

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